GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
ATTACK BY STUXNET VIRUS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sophisticated bug free virus STUXNET is stealthily making its ways into the sensitive Indian industrial installations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the virus has already infected some highly sensitive installations in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to tackle the bug free virus and protect our vital and sensitive installations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (d): A sophisticated virus called as "Stuxnet" was reported to be spreading worldwide since July 2010. The virus targets Industrial Control Systems. Some computer systems in India were also infected by the Stuxnet, but none of the infections have so far been reported in sensitive Industrial systems.

(e): Alerts and advisories about the Stuxnet threat were issued on website of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). Measures to be taken to detect infected systems, dis-infect the same and prevent further propagation were advised to all critical sector organizations in the country.

Government in association with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and security vendors is continuously tracking the infected systems and advising the owners of the systems to dis-infect the same. Workshops have been and are being conducted by CERT-In and other Government agencies jointly for critical sector organizations to create awareness and suggest steps to be taken to counter the threat.